

## Will Smith makes peace with his fame



## Esposito finally makes junior team



## Body discovered near Tower Road

**INVESTIGATION** The body of an adult man was discovered by pedestrians yesterday morning on the railway tracks near the Tower Road Bridge.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Jeff Carr says investigators do not believe there are any suspicious circumstances surrounding his death. No other details were available yesterday.

EDANA ROBITAILLE/  
FOR METRO HALIFAX

## Entertainment pg 12



## Brandy drops Human album

## Local pg 2

## Soldier deaths hits towns hard

## Canada pg 5



## MPs meet on coming budget

## Comments pg 6

## Are we still a British colony?



A firefighter walks in front of a building at 2713 Robie St. which was damaged in an early morning fire yesterday. A Frenchy's used clothing store and PNL Communications Group were operating out of the building.

# Blaze rocks shop

## 30 firefighters forced to battle fire at Frenchy's

JENNIFER TAPLIN  
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### Heavy smoke poured out of a clothing store in Halifax yesterday morning.

It was 2:22 a.m. when neighbours called 911 reporting the Frenchy's store on Robie Street was in flames.

"When they arrived, they found heavy smoke coming from all around the building," said Dave Meldrum with the Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Service.

"They worked their way inside and found fire in the ceiling of the first floor and in the second floor."

The commercial build-

**"At one point, we did pull the crews out so we could hit it with some big water with our aerial devices, and then we got the crews back inside."**

Dave Meldrum, Halifax regional fire service

ing at 2713 Robie housed a Frenchy's used clothing store and PNL Communications Group.

At the height of it, between 25 and 30 firefighters were battling the blaze.

"At one point, we did pull the crews out so we could hit it with some big water with our aerial devices, and then we got the crews back inside. They did a good job — they contained the fire mainly to the front one-

third of the building facing Robie Street."

The fire was under control by 5 a.m., but firefighters worked for hours after to knock it out of the walls.

"Our fire investigators have been there since this morning and they haven't reported back yet, but they'll be looking for cause," Meldrum said yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, investigators

have figured out what started a previous fire in the Head of St. Margaret's Bay.

Two people were in a house on Viewmount Drive when their smoke alarm woke them on Dec. 9. The two occupants were taken to the hospital in Halifax for minor burns and smoke inhalation.

Two cats were killed and another injured.

Fire officials say the fire was caused by ashes which were put in a plastic garbage can in the house. They are warning HRM residents to properly put ashes from wood stoves and fireplaces into a metal container with a tight lid and put it outside, away from the home.

## Crown drops sex-assault charges

KAMIA CREELMAN  
for Metro Halifax

**TEACHER** Sexual-assault charges have been dropped against a retired teacher and ex-coach from Lunenburg.

Carl Joseph Henebury, 57, of Whynott's Settlement was charged with sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl on Nov. 7, 2007. He was also charged with criminal harassment — repeatedly following the same girl — on Jan. 6, 2008.

A two-day trial was slated to begin yesterday morning,

but the Crown attorney, Alison Brown, withdrew the charges instead.

Defence attorney Elizabeth Buckle said she couldn't speak as to why the Crown

dropped the charges: "They didn't tell me."

But Henebury has an alibi for the harassment charge, she said. "He wasn't where they said he was."

"It's been very stressful being charged with this kind of offence," Buckle said. "It's been a difficult year. And of course, (Henebury and I) are both very happy the charges have been dropped."

Henebury retired from teaching in January 2006, after almost 30 years in Lunenburg County district, but continued coaching the junior girls' volleyball team at Lunenburg High. After being charged, he lost the coaching position.

## Comment

Alison Brown's only comment, spokesperson Chris Hansen said, is that "the Crown decided dropping the charges was the most appropriate thing to do."



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# Local



## More women, aboriginals serving time

In 2006-07, women represented 11 per cent of all prisoners serving a sentence, up from 9 per cent five years before, according to a Statistics Canada study released yesterday. Aboriginal offenders made up 20 per cent of those in custody, up from 16 per cent.

METRO HALIFAX

## City car thefts drop 45.7% in last 10 years

KAMIA CREELMAN  
for Metro Halifax

**CRIME** Car theft has become a discouraging trade. Better cops and better cars are responsible for a 45.7 per cent drop in motor vehicle thefts in Halifax over the last decade, Halifax Regional Police Staff Sgt. John Langille said yesterday.

Cars are just more difficult to steal now, Langille said. Modern anti-theft devices are tricky. Cars can be locked up from hood to trunk. You can lock steering wheels, steering columns, tires, gas pedals and gearshifts. And there are alarms, electronic keys and electronic tracking devices should a talented thief manage to drive off.

Older cars are easier to steal. Older Chryslers, vans and Neons are popular. They're easier to get into and easier to start, Langille said.

But Halifax deserves some credit, too. The 45.7 per cent drop is 20 per cent better than the national average. Police are more educated, Langille said, and "the bad guys are learning that, getting caught more."

We've "disrupted a few of the more active chop shops," said Langille.

But there's always going to be bad guys stealing cars, Langille warned. "Just because stats are down doesn't mean the public can be slack."

"Lock your doors. Park in lit areas."



A Canadian flag flies at half-mast in front of Uniacke District School yesterday. Pte. John Curwin from Mount Uniacke was one of three soldiers killed in Afghanistan on Saturday by a roadside bomb.

## Community remembers soldier

PAUL MCLEOD  
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**News of the deaths of two Nova Scotian soldiers in Afghanistan spread through their home communities yesterday.**

Mount Uniacke resident April Horsman learned the news when the face of her childhood friend, Pte. John Curwin, popped up on a computer screen.

"You knew as soon as you saw it," she said yesterday. Only 25 years old, Cur-

win was killed by a roadside bomb west of Kandahar on Saturday, along with Cpl. Thomas Hamilton of Upper Musquodoboit and Pte. Justin Jones of Baie Verte, N.L.

Curwin grew up in Mount Uniacke and was so proud of his home he arranged to have the town flag mailed to him in Afghanistan. He is the first soldier from the area to be killed in the line of duty since the Second World War. He is remembered now as a father of three

**"One thing I think it'll do is bring a lot of us back together who hadn't seen each other in years and years."**

Mount Uniacke resident April Horsman

and husband wife, Laura.

"He was just a really, really good guy. He had a soft heart, really loving," said Horsman, who went to school with Curwin since they were in nursery school at the age of three.

She remembers him as a

great dad and a hockey lover, who was especially crazy about the Montreal Canadiens. Horsman ran into Curwin and his wife in September just before he left for Afghanistan.

"He wanted to be going. He was proud of what he was doing. He wanted to

serve his country," she said.

The two planned to get together this Christmas. Curwin was due to come home mere days after the accident that took his life.

The news spread quickly through the small community, which has at least five other young men serving. Flags throughout Mount Uniacke were at half-mast yesterday.

"One thing I think it'll do is bring a lot of us back together who hadn't seen each other in years and years," said Horsman.

metronews.ca  
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

**Video** Stephen Harper pays tribute to soldiers killed in Afghanistan at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

**Read** Columnist Allan Small says it may sound scary, but borrowing to invest can be a sound strategy at [metronews.ca/investing](http://metronews.ca/investing)



## Group heading to El Salvador to observe elections

EDANA ROBITAILLE  
for Metro Halifax

A small group of Halifax volunteers are heading to El Salvador next month to help observe the municipal elections. They will return for the presidential

elections next March. The Halifax Observers Project: El Salvador (HOPES) feels that being part of an international presence will help ensure that the country's elections remain democratic.

Dr. Timothy Bood is one of six volunteers headed

to San Salvador, the capital city, in January. HOPES was invited to observe the elections by the popular FMLN party. Bood says many Salvadorians see the coming elections as an opportunity for change.

"There's a good chance

that there'll be a real choice for the people of El Salvador and a party that is very much interested in improving the health care — dedicated to the welfare of the people who are living in poverty — has a chance to win," Bood said. "But there's also a great

fear that the election will be stolen."

El Salvador has only been a democratic country since a 1992 peace accord ended a civil war in which 90,000 people were killed over 12 years. Around 80 per cent of these were civilian deaths.



**City chamber supports provincial infrastructure stimulus**

Chamber of Commerce president Valerie Payn says infrastructure spending proposed by Premier Rodney MacDonald could help the economy. **METRO HALIFAX**

local 3

# Former couple's fight for custody a dog's tale

## Vet says pet needs 'quieter,' single dwelling

JENNIFER TAPLIN  
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**It was a dog fight in small claims court as a former couple battled over custody of a Boston terrier named Jersey.**

Kelly Gardiner-Simpson and Glenn Robert Cross became an item in 2003. By the end of 2005, they decided to buy a house together, but Gardiner-Simpson backed out several weeks before the closing.

Cross had promised Gardiner-Simpson a nice Christmas present: A set of leather seat covers. Not quite the engagement ring she was expecting.

"Whether this was an attempt at humour that fell flat, or a sincerely practical though supremely unromantic gesture shall remain a mystery," wrote adjudicator Eric Slone in the decision, released yesterday.

Cross was hurt, but he tried to reconcile with Gardiner-Simpson.

He started shopping for a

dog. They found Jersey at a Pets Unlimited in Dartmouth.

The pet adoption application lists Cross as the one who bought the dog, but Gardiner-Simpson made payments on a credit card.

When they eventually broke

up, Cross primarily kept the dog while Gardiner-Simpson had custody every second weekend. This lasted a year-and-a-half until Jersey started acting lethargic after visits. A veterinarian said it would be best if the dog had one, "quieter" household.

By this point, Gardiner-Simpson was in another relationship and had a baby and two other dogs.

Cross stopped the weekend visits and threatened to call the police if Gardiner-Simpson tried to take the dog.

She took him to court instead.

Slone said even though people care for their pets like loved ones, it's still a property matter.

"The problem would take on a Solomonic quality where splitting the asset (be it a dog or a child) destroys the thing for both of them," he wrote. "Selling the dog to an outsider would only double the pain."

Slone awarded custody of Jersey to Cross.



A Boston terrier

# Raceway cuts running field due to quarantine

**TRURO** Nearly 40 horses were scrapped from Sunday's field at the Truro Raceway because of a quarantine put in place this week.

At least two horses housed at the raceway are being tested for a highly contagious respiratory disease known as strangles.

The decision to restrict movement into the track means that 36 or 37 horses that were being brought

from other stables in Nova Scotia and outside the province were removed from Sunday's race card. But 14 other horses on the eligibility list were slotted into some of the vacancies, which still left an overall running field of 81 horses.

Should the tests come back positive, however, the track could remain under quarantine for up to a month. **METRO HALIFAX**

## News in brief

**MILL REOPENS** Northern Pulp is back up and running. The Abercrombie Point pulp mill re-opened Friday after production halted two weeks before when a leak was discovered in the effluent pipe leading to Boat Harbour. While examining the pipe, a more serious break was discovered. The break was repaired, however, and the nearly 200 workers laid off during the plant closure have been recalled. The mill was able to supply customers with the product they had in their storage area. **METRO HALIFAX**

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## News in brief

**FATALITIES** RCMP say a 24-year-old man from Toronto and a 23-year-old Korean woman, both students going to university in Halifax, were killed in a crash on Highway 103 on Sunday. Police won't release their names, but Dalhousie University confirmed one of the victims is a student there, and it'll be lowering its flag to half-mast once the victim's name is released publicly.

**ASSAULT** Police have charged an 18-year-old woman with assault with a weapon after a Sunday night fight on Margate

Drive in Halifax. At 9:45 p.m., one woman hit another with a glass bottle; the 26-year-old victim was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

**FATALITY** Cumberland RCMP say Graham Baxter, 52, was killed in a fatal crash with an off-road vehicle Sunday afternoon. Police are still investigating the accident, where the off-road vehicle collided with a pedestrian on private property in the Tidnish Cross Roads area north of Amherst.

**METRO HALIFAX**

## Crow's Nest gets OK

**GOLF** Second and final reading of a rezoning for the Crow's Nest Golf Course property in Kentville went off without a hitch at the December council session.

Council voted in favour of two concurrent MPS and LUB amendments for the golf course property.

The decision amends the generalized future land-use map from commercial recreation to residential. It will run with a concurrent

amendment to the zoning map, to rezone a portion of the land parcel, 10.45 acres, from special use (SU) Zone, to residential multiple unit (R3) zone.

Developer B.D. Stevens Ltd. wishes to purchase the Crow's Nest golf course property for a residential and commercial development.

This would necessitate the property being subdivided and rezoned.

**METRO HALIFAX**

## Shinny rinks Almost ready



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Jon Blanchard floods the shinny rink at the north-end community rink yesterday. Blanchard says that the community rink's three ice surfaces should hopefully be ready for use by the end of the month.

## Sentencing in murder case delayed to '09

**PLATTSBURGH, N.Y.** Sentencing for convicted murderer Glen Race has been delayed until next year.

The 27-year-old Dartmouth man was originally scheduled to return to Clinton County Court this week, but an attorney conflict has postponed his appearance until Jan. 15.

After a September trial, Judge Kevin Ryan found Race guilty of fatally shooting Darcy Manor in May 2007.

The 35-year-old father of two was working at a private Moores camp when he was shot in the back on May 10. Race is also ac-

cused of murdering Trevor Charles Brewster, 45, and Michael Paul Knott, 44, the week before. It's alleged he was fleeing from those crimes when he killed Manor.

Race was taken into custody for the murder a few days afterward, as he was about to cross the Mexican border. He had fled in Manor's truck and was caught with items belonging to the local volunteer firefighter and the two other murder victims.

Race is still in jail in Clinton County, N.Y. His family has said they plan to appeal the judge's ruling.

**METRO HALIFAX**

## Minimum drink prices coming to Wolfville?

**BARS** Wolfville Mayor Bob Stead is going to call on all six liquor outlets in his town to work together to set minimum drink prices.

Stead said last week he hoped a co-operative effort could be made.

Currently, only one liquor establishment on Harbour-side Drive sells cheap drinks. Last week, a group of 10 doctors in Halifax called on the province to set minimum drink prices for the holiday season.

Physicians at Dalhousie University health services said they are tired of dealing with alcohol-related injuries.

A government committee struck to look into the issue of high-risk drinking recommended that bars be required to charge at least \$2.50 for a shot of liquor or a beer.

The province responded by saying it wouldn't set a minimum drink price for bars.

**METRO HALIFAX**

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# Steinke gets life sentence

Jeremy Steinke, found guilty Dec. 5 of three counts of first-degree murder, was sentenced yesterday to the minimum prison term of life, with no chance of parole for 25 years. Steinke, 25, and his former girlfriend, 12 years old at the time of the murders, were both convicted of killing her parents and her brother in Alberta in April 2006. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

# Canada



## Postal strike continues

More than two thirds of the 2,100 striking Canada Post support workers voted against the latest offer from the Crown corporation over the week-end. The offer would have raised wages over the third and fourth years of the contract, but also would have replaced sick leave and family-related leave with a new short-term disability system proposed by the corporation. Staff have been on strike since Nov. 17.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Radler free on parole

**CRIME** David Radler, the long-time pal of fallen media baron Conrad Black who rose alongside him to wealth and power then turned against his former boss, was handed full parole yesterday after serving 10 months of his 29-month sentence for fraud.

Radler, the former Chicago Sun-Times publisher and president of Hollinger International, got caught along with Black and other executives over charges they siphoned funds from the company.

Radler, 67, pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud in 2005 and paid back more than \$61 million US in restitution after striking a plea agreement with federal investigators. He was fined \$250,000.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

**"I made mistakes and they hurt me."**

David Radler

### News in brief

**HEALTH** Colonoscopies are only effective at catching cancer that develops on the left side of the colon, says a study by Toronto researchers published yesterday. The researchers say that while the test is valuable, it only catches about one per cent of cancers on the right side.

**ECONOMY** The federal government, under pressure to aid a slowing economy, has asked the provinces to submit infrastructure projects, ranging from mass transit to communications, that can get under way quickly, officials said yesterday.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Deficit needed: PM

**Prime Minister Stephen Harper says the Conservative government will have to run a budget deficit to bring in billions of dollars worth of recovery programs for the hard-hit economy.**

"We're talking about spending billions of dollars that was not planned," he told CTV's Atlantic affiliate in a preview of the Jan. 27 budget.

"We want to bring in some recovery programs that will help us sustain economic activity and avoid some of the worst problems, particularly in some the sectors that you're familiar with," Harper said. It was an apparent reference to the struggling manufacturing, autos and forestry businesses.

"We're going to have to run a deficit, do some spend-



Liberals John McCallum, left, and Scott Brison talk to reporters in Toronto yesterday after meeting with Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

ing measures we hadn't planned on doing, but I think, if we do those things, we should be able to come out of this (economic downturn) pretty strong in due course."

Earlier, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty met with senior Liberals to discuss the possible contents of the budget.

Liberal MP John McCallum said during the closed door meeting Flaherty admitted economic forecasts in his November update were too optimistic. And Flaherty appears more inclined toward bringing in an economic stimulus package than in months past, McCallum added.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Auto collapse would cost nearly 600K jobs: Report

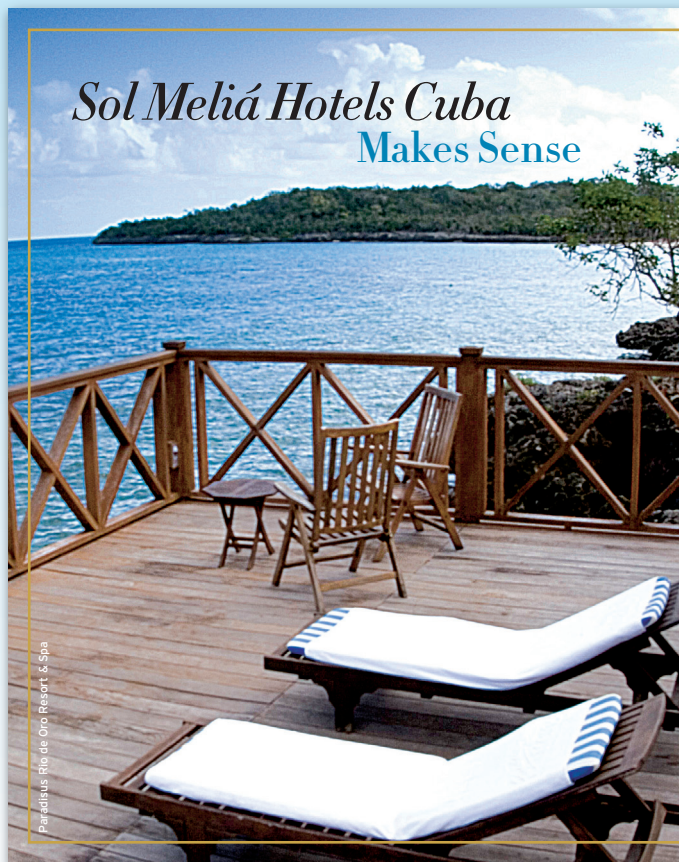
**ECONOMY** Canada would lose at least 582,000 jobs — mostly in Ontario — within five years if the Detroit Three automakers go out of business, according to an Ontario report obtained by Torstar News Service.

The review, set to be released today, warns the collapse of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler would send lasting shock waves through the economy.

If auto output by U.S.-based manufacturers in Canada were cut in half, at least 157,000 jobs would be lost right away, including 141,000 in Ontario. By 2014, job losses would rise to 296,000 nationally. The losses would force the national unemployment rate upward by 0.6 per cent in 2009 and 0.2 per cent annually for the next five years.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Are we still a colony?

## NationalReport

### Lawrence Martin



It isn't over yet. The Harper government's unfathomable fumble — the fiscal update fiasco — has wreaked much

havoc. But more is to come.

At the moment the prorogation of Parliament happened, it looked like the Governor General and the prime minister would get a pass. The country was awash in indignation over the prospect of the Bloc Québécois being part of a new coalition government. Stephen Harper, the prime

minister who granted Quebec nation status, was nevertheless able to do a brilliant job of demonizing the Bloc and framing the debate around the separatist issue.

But now that the dust is settling, a settling of accounts could be in store.

Recall what happened. In a closed-door meeting, the Governor General, at the behest of the prime minister, shut down Parliament to save him from a confidence vote and the certain defeat of his government.

It's what's known as democracy, Canadian-style. Writing from Paris in the Ottawa Citizen, Keith Spicer

summed up the charade as "Zimbabwe run by the Queen." Abroad, he said, Canada is being mocked as a colony. In the Globe and Mail, Peter C. Newman called it "our recent test run as a banana republic." On the CBC, Allan Gregg invoked the Robert Mugabe comparison.

They and many others wonder something. How could a decision as critical as this one be made by a Queen's representative with no public accountability whatsoever? Who was in the room? What kind of pressure did Harper bring to bear? What about the sug-

**How could a decision as critical as this one be made by a Queen's representative with no public accountability whatsoever?**

gestion that advisers for each side had basically agreed on the outcome before Harper even entered Rideau Hall that day?

As for Michaëlle Jean, she and her monarchic ways are taking a hit. She may have made the right call on prorogation. But is she too regal to come forward and speak to her subjects about it? Are we not beyond century No. 17?

In short order, after the coming budget, she could well be making another decision of equal magnitude for the country. Her office shouldn't be allowed to treat us like a bunch of paties bowing at the feet of her closed-door proclamations.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

## Views

# The deception behind indigenous cultural preservation

### Frances Widdowson & Albert Howard

In current discussions about aboriginal policy, it is generally assumed that land claims and self-government are the best way to address native grievances and achieve social justice.

This policy direction, however, was not initiated by native people themselves; it has resulted from a long historical process, whereby non-aboriginal missionaries, consultants, lawyers and anthropologists have proposed initiatives that act to maintain aboriginal marginalization. This "aboriginal industry" thrives on aboriginal misery because native isolation from the mainstream ensures that a large segment of the aboriginal population will be perpetually in need of "help."

The processes advocated by the aboriginal industry maintain aboriginal isolation because it encourages people to look backward to

a romanticized past rather than focusing on the future.

Aboriginal traditions, in fact, are viable only in the context of hunting and gathering or horticulture — economic systems that are much smaller, less productive and simpler in organization than those found in modern states. If Aboriginal Peoples are to enjoy a high standard of living and the choice of participating in a variety of occupations, this cannot be facilitated by revitalizing customs associated with an earlier period of human history.

The reactionary character of these initiatives has not been recognized because aboriginal industry inspired research disguises the undeveloped nature of aboriginal traditions; accusations of racism are then deployed to attack anyone who dares

to question the deception that is being perpetrated. Developing an understanding of the actual results of

**Developing a more comprehensive understanding of historical circumstances is necessary to effectively address aboriginal deprivation.**

indigenous cultural preservation cannot occur because intimidation and self-censorship are smothering debate.

Acknowledging the developmental difference between hunting and gathering and modern economies is also avoided because it is contrived as being demeaning to native people. The recognition that pre-contact aboriginal cultures lacked technologies such as iron, the wheel and a written language, and that this contributed to their eventual economic and political subordination, is seen as justifying the terrible harm that resulted from colonization. But identifying the factors that have enabled one group to op-

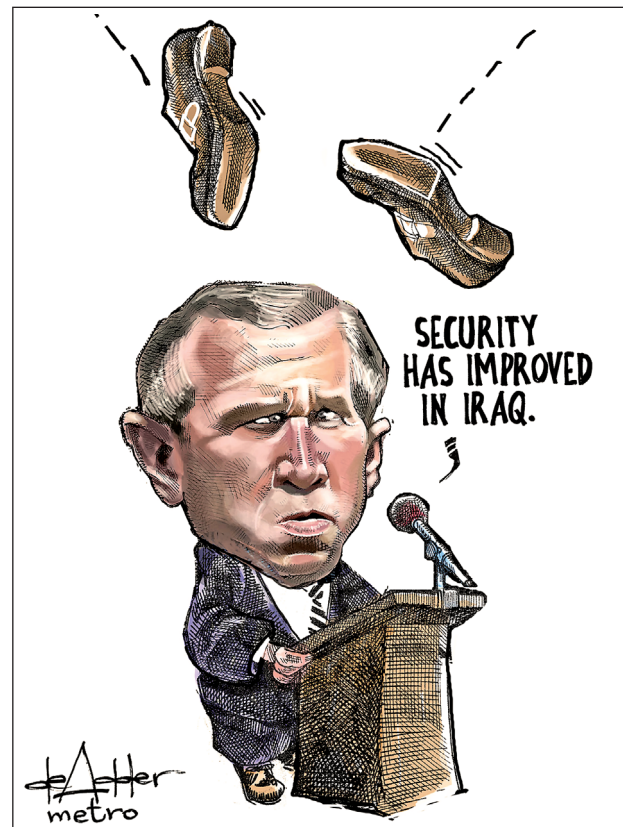
press another does not justify the result. Instead, developing a more comprehensive understanding of historical circumstances is necessary to effectively address aboriginal deprivation.

In fact, the lack of candour in discussions about aboriginal dependency precludes the development of a strategy to address it.

Instead of investigating how government programs can be designed to encourage Aboriginal Peoples' participation in the wider society, it is now maintained that they should cultivate their own "justice," "science," and "medicine" in isolation from modern requirements.

This bolsters the diversion of funds to the aboriginal industry and opportunistic native leaders, while the majority of the aboriginal population remains mired in poverty and despair.

Frances Widdowson is a faculty member in the department of policy studies at Mount Royal College, and Albert Howard is a teacher and writer. Both live in Calgary.



## Letters

### The straight truth about razors at barber shops

Re: Old-fashioned barber shops cater to everyone (Dec. 11)

As a small business owner in Dartmouth in the barber shop business, I was quite shocked to see this article and the misleading facts that surrounded it. Though I thought the article was interesting, I could not help but notice some of the content was actually quite misleading and, in fact, not true at all.

Jonathan Stickney's comment, "We're the only ones who still use straight razors to shave necks," is completely false.

The general public has a right to know the truth and other barber shops have a right to let it be known that the service of using straight razors to shave necks is available at other locations within the metro area.

FRANK OSSO, DARTMOUTH

### Invest money to create a Canadian auto industry

Why rescue the Big Three? Ford, General Motors and Chrysler are on the verge of bankruptcy.

If we are going to spend billions of dollars on the auto industry, it should be

used to build our own auto manufacturing industry and use Canadian ingenuity to compete on the world stage.

As a Canadian taxpayer, I would prefer that my money be invested in starting a new, innovative auto industry rather than going to supporting jobs in the U.S.

ARCHIE MCLACHLAN,  
BRAMPTON, ONT.

### Queen should not have been dragged into political arena

To say that I was appalled at Paul Sullivan's article (Dec. 10) on the absolution of the monarchy is an understatement.

First, Mr. Sullivan, if you are to render the Queen without her title, her correct name would be Mrs. Mountbatten, not Windsor, as that was her maiden name. Secondly, the Queen's role in a constitutional monarchy, which we are in Canada, is to "warn, encourage and to advise" and not dictate as your article purported.

Mr. Sullivan has drawn the monarch into a political arena where she does not belong. The sovereignty is above politics and acts as a safeguard in our system.

REGINA SILVA ROBINSON,  
TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: [halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca)

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



**Lights out in northeast U.S.**

More than 330,000 homes and businesses in the U.S. northeast remained without power yesterday, four days after a fierce snow and ice storm left more than 1.3 million in the dark. **REUTERS**

# World/Business

## Bailout expected

Automakers' fate decided as early as tomorrow

**The Bush administration could act as early as tomorrow to approve an automaker bailout from its bank rescue fund, with conditions likely to reflect at least those approved by the House last week, key lawmakers and other sources said yesterday.**

A Treasury Department official said the agency and auto company executives continued to review financial and other information, and that no decision had been made. The White House is actively involved in the matter, officials said.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said, however, the government would have to be satisfied the industry could survive and compete in order to receive help.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, says the administration will likely use part of the \$700-billion US fund established in October to stabilize the financial services sector, rather than pushing the companies into bankruptcy, as some lawmakers have urged.

"That would be my expectation and I think all the sig-

nals coming from the White House are that they know that bankruptcy is not an option and that (stabilization) funds are the only recourse that they have," Pelosi said at a news conference.

General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC have said they need immediate injections of cash to avoid near-term collapse.

Ford Motor Co. is seeking a government line of credit to be used if its financial conditions deteriorate more than expected in 2009.

**REUTERS**

## Business

## Correction in condo market inevitable

**Prominent Toronto housing economist Will Dunning is warning of a "substantial correction" in the city's overheated condominium market.**

The warning comes on the heels of figures yesterday that show Canadian existing home sales continue to slide dramatically in the fourth quarter of the year, posting steep declines with the lowest level of monthly activity in almost eight years.

By the end of September, the economist esti-

mates there were a looming 33,919 condos under construction in the Toronto census metropolitan area.

"This very large pending inventory is setting the stage for a substantial correction," he said in a sobering report looking at the rental and condo market.

Finicky condo investors are already beginning to sell in central Toronto, up by 75 per cent in November compared to a year earlier, he says.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## In brief

**BEVERAGES** Coca-Cola is expected to launch a drink in the U.S. this week containing rebiana, a natural, calorie-free sweetener derived from the stevia plant. Despite not yet receiving formal approval for the ingredient, Coke is expected to put it into its Odwalla juices, vitaminwater and smartwater drinks. **REUTERS**

## Greece Violent protest



Protesters kick a policeman yesterday who detained another protester during clashes outside the police headquarters in central Athens. Police fired tear gas at small groups of protesters who threw stones in a second week of anti-government demonstrations since a policeman shot dead a teenager.

## Illinois governor headed to inquiry

**POLITICS** Illinois lawmakers yesterday approved an inquiry into whether Gov. Rod Blagojevich should be impeached in the wake of charges he tried to sell the Senate seat vacated by president-elect Barack Obama.

The Illinois House of Representatives voted 113-0 to form a committee to determine whether that body should bring charges against him, which, if approved, would result in a Senate trial and possibly impeachment.

Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan told reporters in Springfield, the state capital, the charges might include "abuse of power."

**REUTERS**

## Auto slump a boon for fuel cell-makers

**AUTOS** Fuel-cell pioneers are benefiting from the global decline in vehicle sales.

The platinum used to make catalytic converters that control emissions from car tailpipes are now at a surplus as demand shrinks. The metal is being redirected to create the catalyst for chemical reactions in fuel cells for hydrogen cars.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Mattel settles lead toy scare for \$12M

**TOYS** Mattel Inc. reached a \$12-million US settlement with 39 U.S. states over lead-tainted toys that prompted a health scare in 2007, the Massachusetts attorney general said yesterday.

Last year, Mattel recalled more than 18 million toys made in China because of hazards related to magnets and lead paint.

No children were believed to have been injured by the lead toys, which are now off store shelves. **REUTERS**



**Cargo ship fined for oil slick:** The Cyprus-registered cargo vessel Alida Gorthon was fined \$80,000 for a pollution offence related to the unlawful discharge of a pollutant and failure to report the discharge of a pollutant, after an oil slick of less than 50 litres was spotted in the vessel's wake approximately 200 km south of Halifax last June.

**Lobster fisherman demand aid:** Lobster fishermen in southwestern Nova Scotia say they can't make a living now that the price for their catch has dropped to about \$3 per pound — about half as much as they were getting last year. Fishermen are petitioning the federal government to provide financial aid.

Get the full stories delivered to your inbox every morning by signing up for the **Daily Business Buzz** [www.nsbj.ca](http://www.nsbj.ca)

## Shoe-thrower courageous: Chavez

**POLITICS** Venezuela President Hugo Chavez said yesterday that an Iraqi reporter who flung his shoes at U.S. President George W. Bush was courageous.

Chavez, who has himself hurled insults at the U.S. president over the years, said he was glad the shoes didn't hit Bush but smiled broadly during a video of the incident played during a cabinet meeting broadcast on Venezuela television.

"It's a good thing it didn't

hit him. I'm not encouraging throwing shoes at anybody, but really, what courage," he said.

Iraqi journalist Muntazer al-Zaidi threw two shoes at Bush and called him a "dog" during a Baghdad news conference Sunday, an act that has won him instant fame across the world and wide support in the Middle East.

Chavez is a fierce critic of the U.S. war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**REUTERS**

## News in brief

**POLITICS** Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of slain U.S. president John F. Kennedy, is pursuing the Senate seat of Hillary Clinton, who has been nominated secretary of state, civil rights activist Al Sharpton said yesterday. **REUTERS**

**LAWSUIT** French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy is suing a fashion chain for 125,000 euros (\$168,300 US) for selling bags emblazoned with nude images of her in the latest legal action over the presidential couple's image. **REUTERS**

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## Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA



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## Dickens: Financial adviser?

**Q** Last month, our company went to a four-day work week. My wife continues to work but we could run into some problems sooner than later. Would a financial advisor help with our concerns? **Sondeep**

**A** Having a good financial advisor on your side is always good, particularly in these economic times. Set a time to see one.

Don't be Scrooge but instead learn from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The irony is that Dickens' initial inspiration to write this classic was his need to get out of debt.

**Christmas Past**

Some things, once broken, cannot be mended. Fortunately, credit is not one of them. Pull your credit and review carefully. Have the credit bureau correct any errors and negoti-

## MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcga@yahoo.ca

ate to pay off judgements. **Christmas Present**

Plan now for the future. Create a household budget and stick to it. Pay all your bills on time, payments should not mimic the stock market.

**Christmas Yet to Come**

The steps you take now will have a direct impact on your financial future. Don't forget George Orwell's famous quote: "Who controls the past, controls the future: Who controls the present controls the past."

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at  
choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

## On bended knee, wallet open

## SmartCookies



**B**elieve it or not, December is the most popular time for wedding proposals. This month, men everywhere will talk to protective parents, kiss their single life goodbye and commit to thousands of dollars on an engagement ring.

So for all of you out there contemplating marital bliss, we know you have a lot of questions and are probably looking for some ways to keep your costs down. And trust us when we say skimping on the ring is not your best option.

Here are a few ways to help you stretch your dollar before you pop the question:

**A diamond is a diamond, whether it's from Tiffany or Costco**

The first step in choosing a diamond is having a clear understanding of the quality factors, commonly referred to as the "4C's": Colour, clarity, cut and carat.

Once you determine the combination that is right for you, we suggest you skip the brand name. The only difference in a brand-name diamond is the label and the price tag — which can be up to 50 per cent more! And let's be honest, most of the women we know would rather have a bigger rock over a ritzy designer.

**Ask for a discount for paying cash**

Depending on the profit margin, many jewellers will be willing to sell you your diamond at a lower price to avoid having to deal with fees from credit card companies.

**Buying rings as a set can save money**

Often if you purchase

your engagement ring and wedding ring as a set, you can save.

**White gold looks like platinum but is less expensive**

If you are looking for silver-tone jewelry but don't want to pay platinum prices, consider a ring made of white gold. Not only is white gold less expensive, but it is actually harder to scratch and damage.

**Something to be said for sentiment**

If either you or your partner has a family heirloom, antique jewelry from a loved one can be some of the most beautiful and sentimental. But if it isn't exactly what you had in mind, consider personalizing it by upgrading the diamond or band. You will still likely save money in the long run.

**How much should you really spend?**

Spend what you feel comfortable with. Resist the pressure from advertisers who imply that if you are not spending between

one to three month's salary, you don't love your honey. Spend less, spend more, spend what YOU want. Just bear in mind this ring will be with you for a lifetime.

If you are looking for more money-saving tips, contact us at smartcookies@metronews.ca or visit smartcookies.com.

And check out our book, now available at bookstores everywhere: Smart Cookies Guide to Making More Dough.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST  
on the W Network and be sure to visit  
smartcookies.com for more tips.

## Investing

Allan Small

The week's column poses the question: Should you borrow to invest now? Visit metronews.ca

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**Hockey player in critical condition after fight**

An Ontario senior league hockey player suffered a severe head injury Friday when his helmet came off and he fell to the ice during a fight.

Don Sanderson, a 21-year old York University student, remains in a coma at a Hamilton, Ont., hospital according to the team's website. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

9

# Sports



**"I think race was the No. 1 factor ... Out of all the coaches they interviewed, Chizik probably had the worst resume."**

Former NBA star Charles Barkley to ESPN on his alma mater, Auburn, hiring Gene Chizik as head football coach. Barkley said University of Buffalo coach and former CFL player Turner Gill, who is black, was more qualified.

SOURCE: ESPN.COM

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

## Carter burns Raptors again

## NBA RESULT

Nets 94 Raptors 87



**Devin Harris scored 20 points and Vince Carter joined him with that total, as New Jersey stormed back in the final period to down Toronto, 94-87, at the Air Canada Centre last night.**

Carter scored just three points and didn't hit a shot in just over 29 minutes on Dec. 12 against the Raptors, resulting in a 101-79 defeat. That game occurred in New Jersey, where the Nets are just 4-7 this season. In Toronto however, the Raptors choked down the stretch as the Nets rode a 16-0 tidal wave that turned a nine-point deficit into a seven-point advantage. Harris tal-



Vince Carter, right, shoots over Chris Bosh last night.

lied the first nine points with his free throws tying the game at 72. Carter's three-point play and a pair of Harris free throws pushed the lead to 79-72. Chris Bosh and Jason Kapono donated

17 points apiece and Jose Calderon collected 15 points to go along with eight assists. Jermaine O'Neal netted 14 points in defeat, the club's second consecutive setback. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Avery fiasco is totally out of whack

This is how a neophyte could sum up the Sean Avery situation:

*In the NHL, saying something stupid to a media scrum will get you suspended six games and lead your team to essentially release you. But if you hit somebody headfirst into the boards from behind (as Tom Kostopoulos did to Mike Van Ryn, giving Van Ryn a concussion) you get exactly half that suspension and not cut.*

Obviously, it's a little deeper than that. It's clear Avery's teammates didn't want him back, and that was ultimately the reason for his dismissal.

That's fine.

But on another level, the summary is still 100 per cent correct. The hypocrisy of the NHL is one of the many reasons the sport has at times trailed poker and women's college softball in U.S. TV ratings. I'm not calling out Kostopoulos, either — his hit wasn't deliberate, but it was arguably careless and did cause a serious injury.

Meanwhile, nothing Avery has done — seeing as his persona non grata status is also the result of his laundry list of antics — ever threatened brain damage on another human being.

Let me be clear that I'm

not defending what Avery said. At best, it was juvenile, at worst, misogynistic. But give him credit for one thing: He brought an original personality to a sport with few original personalities. Aside from a handful of people — Alex Ovechkin, Jeremy Roenick, Brian Burke and John Tortorella come to mind — you don't see a ton of funny sound bytes coming out of the NHL.

**John Chick**

john.chick@metronews.ca

When Avery called out the league for not having stars marketable in the U.S. last summer, of course he was smug and condescending. But he had a point.

It's no secret that the culture of hockey is vastly different from that of any other sport.

That culture led Brendan Shanahan to once say there could never be a Dennis Rodman in the NHL.

The Worm was probably an extreme example, but he was absolutely right.

And that's part of the reason why the NHL will contin-

ue to toil in the U.S. marketplace during a recession with a national TV deal that doesn't even guarantee it money.

To suspend a player and then have the team get rid of him — for saying something that in any other sport would likely result in a fine and nothing else — may look wonderfully moralistic, but for an entertainment business to play the high horse in a society where prime-time TV features everything from horny teenagers on the upper east side of Manhattan to women opening the bidding on their sexual orientation doesn't wash.

Especially when you are running the only team sports league on the planet where fist-fighting is an encouraged part of the game.

When Ron Artest went into the stands in Detroit four years ago and ignited the brilliantly christened Malice at the Palace, it was widely viewed as the darkest moment in NBA history.

Yet '70s-era video of Mike Milbury going into the stands and beating a fan with his own shoe is today considered hysterical.

The differences in reaction raise some sociological issues I don't have 60 pages to get into, but one aspect of it is clear.

The NHL doesn't have its priorities straight.

## Sundin ready to make decision

Former Maple Leafs captain Mats Sundin is expected to finalize his playing future as early as tomorrow.

Sources in Sweden say his Swedish representative Claes Elfalk has told media in Stockholm to call tomorrow to learn which team Sundin has chosen to continue his NHL career

with. That decision has been a source of both intrigue and yawns in Toronto, but the anticipation, which has been building since the Leafs dropped out of the playoff picture last April, should end certainly no later than the NHL holiday roster freeze, which begins Friday. Sundin has

ruled out both Philadelphia and Chicago. Reports say the short list is now down to Vancouver and the New York Rangers. Sundin visited with Rangers GM Glenn Sather this weekend and took in a Rangers game in a private box at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



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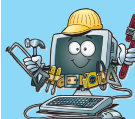
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## Conrad in top 20 at U.S. Grand Prix

**SNOWBOARDING** Dartmouth's Sarah Conrad placed 18th in half-pipe at a U.S. Grand Prix snowboard event near Denver on the weekend.

Conrad, a 2006 Olympian, was third among Canadian women as she gears up for a busy winter season. Alexandra Duckworth of Kingsburg, Lunenburg Co., was 25th.

Conrad's next major stop is at the FIS world championships from Jan. 18 to 24 in Sungwoo, North Korea.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Sports in brief

**QMJHL** Cape Breton Screaming Eagles forward Robert Slaney was named the QMJHL's offensive player of the week yesterday. The 20-year-old had five goals and two assists in four games, helping Cape Breton to three wins.

**SNOWBOARDING** Kristin d'Eon of Sackville won the men's parallel giant slalom on the first stop of the Canadian Open snowboard tour at Mount Norquay, Alta., on the weekend. It was a career-best finish for d'Eon, who is hoping to earn a spot at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## SCOREBOARD

### QMJHL

SCORING LEADERS			
	G	A	P
Masse, Dru	26	32	58
L-McNicoll, Sha	24	33	57
Riendeau, Dru	22	31	53
Petit, BaC	12	38	50
Pistilli, Sha	24	25	49
Petersen, Sha	17	32	49
Slaney, CB	18	28	46
Doyle, PEI	17	27	44
Jezeqou, Bat	17	27	44
Byron, Gat	13	31	44

### NHL

#### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Colorado 3 Detroit 2

San Jose at Los Angeles

#### TONIGHT'S GAMES

New Jersey at Toronto  
Washington at N.Y. Islanders  
Colorado at Philadelphia  
Montreal at Carolina  
Atlanta at Ottawa  
Calgary at St. Louis  
Phoenix at Dallas  
Chicago at Edmonton  
N.Y. Rangers at Anaheim

### NFL

#### YESTERDAY'S RESULT

Philadelphia 30 Cleveland 10

# Quinn goes with a new equation

## One more blue-liner, one less forward, but fourth time a charm for Esposito

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**Team Canada's roster is set for a run at a fifth straight gold medal at the world junior hockey championship.**

Head coach Pat Quinn and chief scout Al Murray unveiled their 22-man squad yesterday in Ottawa, and sent 16 players packing following a three-day selection camp.

The roster follows an untraditional format, with 12 forwards and eight defencemen instead of the usual 13-7 breakdown. This was to accommodate

17-year-old power-play specialist Ryan Ellis, who is not ready for regular ice if injuries hit.

The team will be led offensively by returnees John Tavares and Zach Boychuk along with Vancouver Canucks first-rounder Cody Hodgson and relative unknown Jamie Benn.

Tavares, an Oakville, Ont., is a big-name talent, a highly-touted prospect for next June's NHL draft. He just turned 18, but already has 182 goals and 381 points in 222 games with the Ontario Hockey League's Oshawa Generals. Returnees Thomas Hick-

ey, the team's captain, and Montreal Canadiens draftee P.K. Subban anchor the defence corps along with NHL first-rounders

Tyler Myers (Buffalo), Alex Pietrangelo (St. Louis) and Colten Teubert (L.A.).

In goal are Chet Pickard, a Nashville Predators first-rounder, and Memorial Cup MVP Dustin Tokarski.

Also of note, Montreal Junior forward Angelo Es-



**Angelo Esposito was chosen on his fourth try.**

posito made the roster after being cut three straight times.

The team's average age is 18.5, with one 17-year-old, eight 18-year-olds and 13 19-year-olds.

Notable cuts were hot-shot 17-year-old Taylor Hall of the Windsor Spitfires and high-scoring Evander Kane.

Three QMJHL players made the team, including Rimouski Oceanic forward Patrice Cormier, the younger brother of former Halifax Mooseheads enforcer Kevin.

The tournament starts Boxing Day at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa.

## 2009 Juniors

### Goalies

- Chet Pickard, Dustin Tokarski

### Defencemen

- Keith Aulie, Ryan Ellis, Cody Goloubef, Thomas Hickey, Tyler Myers, Alex Pietrangelo, P.K. Subban, Colten Teubert.

### Forwards

- Jamie Benn, Zach Boychuk, Patrice Cormier, Stefan Della Rovere, Chris DiDom-enico, Jordan Eberle, Tyler Ennis, Angelo Esposito, Cody Hodgson, Brett Sonne, John Tavares, Dana Tyrell.

# Kessel enjoying the ride

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**Before Phil Kessel could earn a passing grade in the National Hockey League, he had to learn not to cheat.**

The 21-year-old, suddenly one of the league's hottest scorers, attributes his success to improved two-way play under Boston head coach Claude Julien — in particular, not vacating the defensive zone early to cherry-pick scoring chances. It's that type of "cheating" that had Kessel in the press box as a healthy scratch in the playoffs last spring.

"He (Julien) instilled that you have to play good two-way hockey to get offensive chances," he said.

"Our whole team is playing good two-way hockey. It's creating good chances in the offensive end, starting in the defensive end."

The Bruins, who have been a .500-or-less team for the past five seasons, are one of the first-half surpris-



The Bruins' Phil Kessel was named NHL first star of the week.

es in the NHL, atop the Eastern Conference with a 21-5-4 record. Kessel has already tied his career high of 19 goals in just 30 games. He is riding an NHL-best 15-game points streak and is the NHL's first star of the week. These days, Julien wouldn't even think of scratching the third-year winger.

Kessel credits his success to linemates Marc Savard and Milan Lucic. Savard provides uncanny playmaking savvy; Lucic brings the brawn; and Kessel the sniper's touch. Together, they have 36 goals and 85 points in 30 games.

"We have a great bunch of guys," Kessel said. "We're winning, and when we show up to the rink, we're having fun."

Kessel, drafted fifth overall in 2006, has been through a lot in his young career. He was diagnosed with testicular cancer halfway through his NHL rookie campaign, but was pronounced cancer-free a week later after surgery.

He won the Bill Masterton Trophy for his dedication to hockey and has no lingering issues, only requiring a checkup every couple of months.

## NFL Eagles try to stay in race



Kevin Curtis of the Philadelphia Eagles, left, catches a touchdown pass against Cleveland last night. The Eagles hammered the Browns 30-10.

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### Reward dry, tired fingers

If you or someone on your Christmas list could use some healing power that lingers, try J.R. Watkitins Cuticle Salve, \$4.79 to \$8.99. Perfect for gardeners types, this all-natural salve comes in three fanciful flavours: vanilla and lemon cream, aloe & green tea and mango. Available at [watkinsonline.com](http://watkinsonline.com). **METRO**



# Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

## Hook ups peak over holidays

### The J Spot

#### Josey Vogels

Sex talk with Josey

Seems presents aren't the only things people are shopping for in the holiday rush. According to a recent study from speed dating service FastLife.ca, hook ups peak in the period leading up to the holidays.

In the last three years, FastLife noticed that speed-dating match rates hover around 82 per cent on average from January to October, but by the end of November match rates rise to 95 to 100 per cent where they remain until the new year.

I realize it's in their interest to encourage hook ups, but it makes sense. With all the parties and family get-togethers at this time of year we all want someone to smooch under the mistletoe or to get a misguided gift from.



Is your holiday hook up set to expire? Take our quiz to find out!

And, as Gabriela Asenjo, FastLife's events manager, says, "people let their guard down more easily and are less picky at pre-Christmas events."

But, while it may be as easy as shooting fish in a barrel to hook up with someone who will (theoretically, at least) help ease that lonesome feeling through the holidays, actually surviving the holidays together

might prove to be a little more challenging.

Take this quiz to see if your relationship will make it:

#### 1. You bring your date to your office party:

a) You can't have fun because you've constantly got your eye on your date fearing he's telling your colleagues about how the CIA covered up his alien abduction.

b) Your colleagues go on and on the next day about what a catch your date is.

c) At the end of the night, you find your date under your desk making out with your boss.

#### 2. Your date's idea of a great Christmas gift is:

a) His and hers matching door-stoppers.

b) A romantic weekend away and a tasteful nude self-portrait.

c) Waiting until after Christmas "when everything's on sale" to get your gift.

#### 3. One of you isn't Christian, how do you celebrate the holidays?

a) Say you'd be happy to celebrate Christmas, if afterwards, your honey agrees to a week-long Buddhist retreat where you chant for eight hours a day.

b) Light the menorah and spin the dreidel before exchanging gifts under the Christmas tree.

c) Tell your date to deal, you're not about to let a little

thing like someone's religion spoil your holiday.

#### 4. Your mom gives your date a really ugly sweater as a gift, you:

a) Force your sweetie to wear it and then giggle maniacally.

b) Wear it to bed with him...with nothing on underneath.

c) Come across it later in a bucket full of rags your date uses to clean the floor.

#### 5. An ex gives your date an expensive present:

a) Tell the ex you bought your date the same thing but took it back because you thought it was tacky.

b) Call up the ex to say thank you for the gift, and send an invite for dinner.

c) "Accidentally" trip over it and break it.

If you answered mostly a's, put on your helmets, hide all sharp objects and you might make it.

If you answered mostly b's, dust off your copy of It's a Wonderful Life and warm up some rum and cider. You guys will make everyone sick with your holiday bliss.

If you answered mostly c's, there's still time to end things before you blow a wad of cash on him or her.

Happy Holidays and good luck!

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit [joseyvogels.com](http://joseyvogels.com).

## Women don't stress over sex: survey

### SEXUALITY

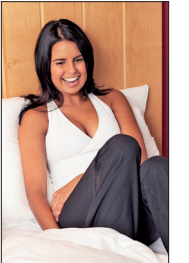
Women seem to take sexual difficulties in stride. That is the conclusion of a

survey of 31,000 U.S. women. Almost half of

women reported they suffered from problems with desire, arousal or orgasm. But only 12 per cent of women are worried, frustrated or embarrassed by a sexual problem.

Distressing sexual problems were most common in women between the ages of 45 and 64. Women younger than 45 or older than 64 may have difficulties, but they are not as worried about them. The researchers' main conclusion was that sexual problems are quite common in women, and that those who are distressed by them should seek medical help.

CELIA MILNE/FOR METRO CANADA



### Health/Beauty in brief

#### STRANGE BUT TRUE

The stories of people who turn grey overnight are actually rare cases of sudden hair loss (which is related to a condition known as alopecia areata) that may leave only the more resistant grey hairs rooted in the scalp.

BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE



from wound healing to nerve repair.

#### HAIR'S STEM CELLS

The abundant supply of stem cells that are in the hair bulb may one day be harnessed for a wide range of regenerative treatments,

BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

### WIN a chance to see John Gracie at the Schooner Showroom

You and 9 friends could win tickets to the show, as well as a collection of John Gracie's Christmas CD's. To enter, send an e-mail to [susan.whitty@metronews.ca](mailto:susan.whitty@metronews.ca).

Enjoy the holiday stylings of John Gracie, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

Contest closes Dec. 17, 2008 at noon. One entry per person. Winner will be contacted via email. Must be at 19+.



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— Stacey St. Germain

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# Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Madonna settles divorce

**Madonna has paid her ex-husband British director Guy Ritchie up to 60 million pounds (\$92 million US) to settle their divorce after eight years of marriage, her spokeswoman said yesterday.**

Liz Rosenberg said the singer, 50, had given Ritchie, 40, between 50 and 60 million pounds (\$76 million and \$92 million) as part of their divorce, which was granted by a British court on Nov. 21.

She said that sum includes the couple's English country estate, Ashcombe, which is valued at about 20 million pounds (\$30 million). The couple's combined wealth has been estimated at about \$525 million, but Madonna accounts for most of it.

Rosenberg said custody arrangements for the couple's children have not been finalized. Madonna



Madonna

and Ritchie have an 8-year-old son, Rocco, and 3-year-old son David, adopted from Malawi. The

singer also has a daughter Lourdes, born in 1996, from her relationship with fitness trainer Carlos Leon.

Madonna, one of the most successful singers of all time with estimated album sales of more than 200 million, was married once before, to actor Sean Penn, in the 1980s.

Madonna and Ritchie announced their split in October, nearly eight years after their wedding. REUTERS



Read this week's DVD reviews online at [metronews.ca/entertainment](http://metronews.ca/entertainment)

# The Human touch

ROB MCMAHON  
for Metro Canada

**Brandy's new album Human tackles the subject of celebrity head on.**

Speaking the day before the album's release, Brandy (full name Brandy Norwood) said the project reflects a desire to be more up-front and personal — a tough choice in today's pop culture.

"It seems like everything's perfect (with celebrities), but it's not, (and) emotionally we're all the same," said the singer, who released her first album as a teenager. "I've been able to achieve all my dreams, and I love having achieved so much at a young age. But I realize there's quite a lot going on in the public eye ... people can make judgments."

This statement is particularly true given the degree to which celebrities' private lives are captured and broadcast. Along with the usual suspects, Brandy too felt the sting of public perception after she revealed she wasn't actually married to the father of her daughter Sy'rai, Robert Smith. She felt like the story would come out eventually, and so decided to approach it head-on, on the cusp of an album release.

"(Back then) I was feeling like I had to be dishonest about the situation," said Brandy. "Being a role model, people look up to you, and you don't want to disappoint them ... (and you're) under so much pressure."

"I wanted to tell the truth and say that honestly won't happen again."

This strategy to directly



## Nobel Man

Bono has been awarded the annual Nobel Man of Peace prize for his efforts to combat poverty, debt and disease in Africa. The U2 frontman was honoured at a ceremony in Paris. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



Human, the latest album from R&B singer Brandy, is now in stores.

confront personal stories extends to Brandy's new album. A group effort, with Brandy collaborating with several writers and producers, the songs focus on relationships, as heard on tracks like Long Distance and

album closer Fall, a duet co-written with British pop singer Natasha Bedingfield.

"Natasha is the sweetest person — her energy and vibe is amazing," said Brandy. "Fall is about not being afraid to be in love, even if you're scared. We had so much fun recording the song. We were like little kids in the studio, having fun but still working hard."

That image — of a couple of friends cavorting in the studio — is a tough one to conjure at first, given Brandy's multimillion-selling records, award wins, acting credits and pitch-perfect persona. But that's the image she hopes to express with Human: That like all celebrities, she's a regular person.

"The Human (concept) is just about being you — being who and what you are," she said. "I'm trying to describe what's it's like to be a human being, since that's what we all are at the end of day."

## critics' corner

NCIS

It's the hap, happiest time of the year. But you'd never know it. Gibbs (Mark Harmon) and the rest of the team are forced to put in overtime while searching for a suspect on a case over Christmas. The real problem arises when they discover their prime suspect has been dead for 17 years. Talk about your "Silent Nights." Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette also star. 8 PM on CIHF, 9 PM on CBS



**A Charlie Brown Christmas**

This is a must-see for its simple message of "what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown." You know the story: Young C.B. searches in vain for the meaning of it all in the midst of his hopelessly sidetracked companions: materialistic Sally, vain Lucy and decorating-obsessed Snoopy. It's Linus, that little sage with the security blanket, who can bring tears to the eyes of the grumpiest Grinch with his sweet reminder from Scripture. 9 PM on ABC

**Live at the Rehearsal Hall**

Soprano Measha Brueggergosman is still young but already has a resume as long as her name ... and it doesn't all involve singing. But that's what she does in this episode, performing not only her specialty, opera, but also some jazz standards and gospel. As with all episodes of this show, the featured performer also chats with host Lance Chilton. 9 PM on BRVO

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/16/08	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wld News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	A Charlie Brown Christmas	According-Jim	According-Jim	Eli Stone
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Fringe "The Arrival"	The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)	The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)	Without Trace	Eli Stone
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Santa Clause 2 ★★ (2002, Comedy)	Tim Allen.	CBC News: The National	The Hour	The Hour	The Hour
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Pyramide (SC)	Mr. Bean (SC)	Antarctique	Madagascar ★★★ (2005, Comédie) (SC)	Les Bougon français (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal	Le Téléjournal	Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	NCIS "Silent Night" (N)	The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)	Without Trace	Without Trace
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Les Anges de la rénovation	Monk (SC)	Musicographie René Angeli.	(10:01) Kitchen Nightmares	News (N)	TVA 22 heures
	6	6	6	CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	NCIS "Silent Night" (N)	House (HDTV PA)	Criminal Minds	Change Your Brain, Change	Change Your Brain, Change	Change Your Brain, Change
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	Without a Trace (N)	Podium TV	EastLink Television	EastLink Television	EastLink Television	EastLink Television
	10	10	10	ELTV	(6) EastLink Television	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV PA)	(10:01) Fringe (HDTV)	Fox First
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV PA)	(10:01) Fringe (HDTV)	Fox First	Fox First
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	The Biggest Loser: Families (Season Finale) (N)	CBC News: The National	Wal-Mart Natn	Wal-Mart Natn
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National	Wal-Mart Natn	Wal-Mart Natn
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	One on One	Nova (HDTV) (DVS)	Frontline "Heat" (DVS)	Change Your Brain, Change	Change Your Brain, Change	Change Your Brain, Change
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Brain Fitness 2: Sight and Sound (HDTV)	Pushing Daisies (SC)	110 pour cent	110 pour cent	110 pour cent
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)	Magie blanche ★★ (2005, Drama)	Mary Tyler Moore.	Pushing Daisies (SC)	110 pour cent	110 pour cent	110 pour cent	110 pour cent
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live	Big Break X: Michigan	Big Break X: Michigan	Big Break X: Michigan	Big Break X: Michigan
	54	54	54	GOLF	Prime Time Sports	Game On	Cabby Unlimit	Court Surfing	NBA news, scores and highlights.	Score Tonight	Score Tonight	Score Tonight
	52	52	52	RSE	Overtime	NHL Hockey Atlanta Thrashers at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	Cabby Unlimit	Court Surfing	NBA news, scores and highlights.	Score Tonight	Score Tonight	Score Tonight
news	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Hot Import
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NHL Hockey New Jersey Devils at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	The Side Show Christmas	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	American Dad
	26	26	26	TREE	Bob-Bldr	Wonder Pets	Backyardigans	Night Grdn	Dora the Explorer	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch
	27	27	27	YTV	Christmas That Almost	OddParents	Rock's Life	Mon. Warriors	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files (HDTV)	Cold Case Files	The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48 (HDTV)	Manhunters	Manhunters	Manhunters
	70	70	70	APTN	News	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay (N)	Rez Rides	Fish Out of	Mixed Blessing	First Nation
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Keyshia Cole	Soul Plane ★★ (2004, Comedy)	Kevin Hart. Tom Arnold.	Keyshia Cole	Keyshia Cole	Keyshia Cole	Keyshia Cole
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal	Desperate Housewives	Live at the Rehearsal Hall	One Night With Barry Manilow	One Night With Barry Manilow	One Night With Barry Manilow	One Night With Barry Manilow	One Night With Barry Manilow
sports	25	25	25	CMT	Chevy Cross Canada Countdown	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman
	153	153	153	COURT	Killer Next Door	The Investigators	Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Getting a Ticket in America	The Investiga	The Investiga	The Investiga
	38	38	38	DISC	Naked Science	Daily Planet (N)	How It's Made	How It's Made	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Pure Design	Style	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin-Justin
	46	46	46	HIST	Outlaw Bikers	NCIS "Frame-Up"	Outlaw Bikers	Ax Men	Ax Men	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	disBand	Technical Diff.	Degrassi: Next	Instant Star	Gone Wild	Gone Wild	So You Think You Can Dance Canada	Celeb Wrestle
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com	Where You At	Popagenda	Listed	Celeb Wrestle	Celeb Wrestle	Celeb Wrestle
	201	201	201	M1	(6:25) Starter for Ten	(8:15) Lost Boys: The Tribe (2008, Horror)	Pan's Labyrinth ★★★★★ (2006, Fantasy)	Pan's Labyrinth ★★★★★ (2006, Fantasy)	Pan's Labyrinth ★★★★★ (2006, Fantasy)	Pan's Labyrinth ★★★★★ (2006, Fantasy)	Pan's Labyrinth ★★★★★ (2006, Fantasy)	Pan's Labyrinth ★★★★★ (2006, Fantasy)
	48	23	23	OLN	The Amazing Race 7	Ed's Up	Videos	Survivorman	Angry Planet	Word Travels	Which Way	Which Way
family	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Land of the Dead ★★ (2005, Horror)	Simon Baker.	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:45) Anaconda ★ (1997, Suspense)	(8:20) Absolon (2003, Science Fiction)	The Jerk ★★ (1979, Comedy)	The Jerk ★★ (1979, Comedy)	The Jerk ★★ (1979, Comedy)	The Jerk ★★ (1979, Comedy)	The Jerk ★★ (1979, Comedy)	The Jerk ★★ (1979, Comedy)
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes	Grands reportages (SC)	Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	EastEnders	Vivienne Vyle	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years (DVS)	Testees	Trailer Park	House
	40	40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted "Jill"	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Date My Ex: Jo & Slade	Rich Bride, Poor Bride	Ultimate Super Heroes-Villains	Rabbit Fall (N)	Rabbit Fall (N)
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1	Lost	My Shocking Story (N)	My Shocking Story (N)	Mystery Diagnosis	Chateaux	Champ. nature	Champ. nature
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	UFC Unleashed	UFC Unleashed	UFC Unleashed	UFC Unleashed
	57	98	98	STAR	Star Treatment	FashionTele	Look-A-Like	etalk Profile	TMZ (N)	etalk	Fabulous Life	Off the Leash
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear	My Skin Could Kill Me	My Skin Could Kill Me	My Shocking Story (N)	Mystery Diagnosis	Chateaux	Champ. nature	Champ. nature
	56	34	34	TROP	Planet Soap	Big Screen	Beverly Hills, 90210	Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
cable variety	20	20	20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Toute une histoire	Voici venir l'orage "Du cinéma à Paris"	Chateaux	Champ. nature	Champ. nature	Champ. nature
	28	28	28	V	Doc "First Impressions"	Murder, She Wrote	Bless-Father	On the Buses	The Christmas Shoes (2002, Drama)	The West Wing	Encounters	Encounters
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways	Judging Amy	Commander In Chief	Maxed Out	Grocery Bag	Holiday Wishes (2006, Drama)	Amber Benson.	Amber Benson.
	22	22	22	W	He Sees You When	Friends	Will & Grace	Maxed Out	Grocery Bag	Holiday Wishes (2006, Drama)	Amber Benson.	Amber Benson.
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	90210 (HDTV)	WGN News	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey

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Monica Cruz on Mango, exclusively at [metronews.ca/globalstyle](http://metronews.ca/globalstyle)



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Christina Hendricks, who plays the bombshell head secretary on the Emmy-winning *Mad Men*, is engaged to actor Geoffrey Arend. No wedding date has been set. **PEOPLE.COM**

**Wedding bells for Hendricks**

## Celebrity Buzz

# The Britney and Madonna tour?

**RUMOUR** Britney Spears is planning to unveil pop star Madonna as a surprise guest when she kicks off her comeback tour next year, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

Spears joined Madonna onstage in Los Angeles last month during the U.S. leg of her *Sticky & Sweet* tour, and Spears wants Madonna

to return the favour when she hits the road in New Orleans, La., in March.

"I'm choreographing and set-designing her show," Spears' choreographer Wade Robson reveals. "There's been talk of Madonna making an appearance, and there's so many places we could take that. At this point the main issue is timing."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



# Adams an eager actress

**CAREER** Amy Adams begged and hassled Doubt director John Patrick Shanley to cast her in the movie, even after he offered her part to Natalie Portman, *imdb.com* reports.

The Oscar nominee was a huge fan of the story, which Shanley wrote, and was desperate to appear in the big screen adaptation, despite the odds being stacked against her.

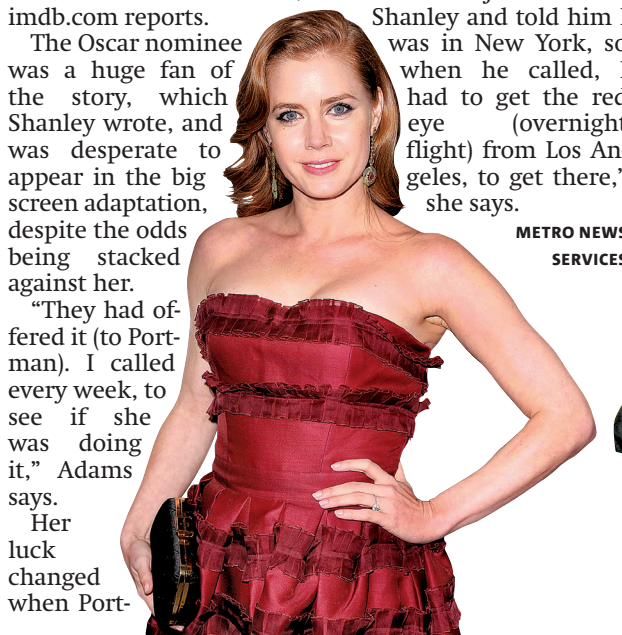
"They had offered it (to Portman). I called every week, to see if she was doing it," Adams says.

Her luck changed when Port-

man said no, and she was offered the role of Sister James. But Adams still had to overcome a logistical problem.

"I lied to John Patrick Shanley and told him I was in New York, so when he called, I had to get the red eye (overnight flight) from Los Angeles, to get there," she says.

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# Watts welcomes second child

**BIRTH** Naomi Watts and Liev Schreiber welcomed their second child Saturday, *People.com* reports.

"I can confirm Naomi and Liev had a baby boy," said the actress' rep.

A couple since 2005, Watts, 40, and Schreiber, 41, already have a baby boy, Alexander Pete

Schreiber, born July 26, 2007.

Earlier this year, Watts boasted of her first-born, "He's turning pages in the book. He's crawling and standing up. He can wave. I read *Goodnight Moon* to him every night."

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# Fame carries trade-offs: Will

**FAME** Actor Will Smith is happy to sign autographs for fans, because it means he can leap to the front of the queue in posh restau-

rants, *imdb.com* reports.

Smith insists he never moans about the constant attention he receives from paparazzi or movie-goers as it is the price he pays for fame. And he is adamant that by always agreeing to give fans his signature, he earns the right to be treated like a star.

"By being famous, you're afforded rights that other people who aren't famous aren't afforded. If I'm going to walk to the front of the line (at the restaurant) because I'm Will Smith, then I have to sign all the autographs," Smith tells *USA Today* newspaper.

"If I don't want to sign any autographs, I don't walk to the front of the line. It's that simple. Stand in the line with everybody else."

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GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

# Osbourne in hot water after insult leads to scrap

**DISPUTE** Sharon Osbourne is under police investigation after allegedly scuffling with a contestant on her U.S. reality TV show *Rock Of Love: Charm School*, *imdb.com* reports.

Megan Hauserman claims Osbourne assaulted her during a recording of the show's reunion special Saturday.

Osbourne is said to have flipped when Hauserman insulted her by saying she is only famous because of her marriage to Black Sabbath singer Ozzy Osbourne.

The rock matriarch allegedly ran across the stage, grabbed Hauserman by the hair, and scratched her.

Website *TMZ.com* reports that the pair had to be pulled apart by security guards.

Hauserman went to hospital the following afternoon and filed a report with the Los Angeles Police Department that night.

Authorities have confirmed Osbourne is a suspect in a minor battery allegation, but that no charges have been filed.

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# Lazing around is sexy: Beyoncé

**PEOPLE** Pop superstar Beyoncé Knowles feels sexiest for rap husband Jay-Z when lazing around her house with bare feet and messy hair, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

"I feel sexiest walking round my house with bare feet and messy hair. Our relationship is very easy. We respect each other. You know someone loves you by the way he treats you," she told British tabloid *News of The World*. "I think like a guy. If I do

something wrong I don't get emotional."

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# Moss cancels bash on partner's orders

**RELATIONSHIP** Kate Moss has cancelled her proposed New Year's Eve party on the orders of her boyfriend, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

The supermodel was planning to attend a star-studded bash in St. Tropez, in the South of France, but her *Kills* guitarist partner Jamie Hince has insisted she spend the day at home with him and her six-year-old daughter Lila Grace, from a previous relationship.

The couple will see in 2009 at her Oxfordshire home, in the United Kingdom.

"They're back together, but they are still arguing about how much Kate goes out," a

source says. "Jamie says Kate needs to calm her lifestyle down, but she still likes to party. She loves him, but she hates the fact he tries to rein her in all the time."

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# No rush to have kids: Eva

**PEOPLE** Eva Mendes is in "no rush" to have children, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

Despite being happy in her private life, the actress — who is in a long-term relationship with producer George Gargurevich — does not feel ready to start a family.

"It's great that women can work and have kids, but I'm in no rush," she said. "I was joking the other day that everywhere you look there is a celebrity having a baby, and I said I hoped I didn't catch it. There are just so many things I want to do."

Mendes has also explained her decision to enter a rehab facility earlier this

year to be treated for "personal issues."

"Basically, I can't deal with everything life throws at me on my own — I need tools and people around me to help," she says. "I don't want to sound like a victim because, come on, I'm one of the luckiest women in the world. But I have trouble dealing with the fame side of things, so now I see my therapist every week. For me, it's a healthy thing to do."

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# Workaholic Jay-Z decks out studio

**CAREER** Hip-hop mogul Jay-Z spends so much time at his recording studio, he needs to keep

a bed in there, *PageSix.com* reports.

Sources say his purchases included a sleep-sized sofa, a bar table, bar stools and a glass coffee table, and that he dispatched his assistant to collect the goods at a store in Manhattan.

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